

REVISED



August 2006
Volume 15, Number 3

Diane Hargrove
2005-2006 President

Message from the President

Diane Hargrove, MPHA President

We are quickly approaching our Annual Meeting to be held September 20-22, 2006 in Tunica, MS. We have planned some exciting events and educational workshops. Don't miss out by waiting too late. Pre-registration deadline for the annual meeting is **August 25, 2006**. After that, you will have to pay \$20 late fee which will not be reimbursed by the agency for MDH employees. If you pre-register and are unable to attend, please contact Saundra Hill at 601-5767642 or email Saundra.hill@msdh.state.ms.us to cancel your registration. This is important to the organization so that we can have the appropriate count and not waste money paying for individuals who don't attend. We appreciate your support and cooperation. See ya in Tunica!

**JOIN MPHA TODAY!
FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE
www.msdh.state.ms.us/mpha**

**2006 Annual Meeting - September 20-22, 2006
Grand Casino & Resort - Tunica, Mississippi**

You can make your reservation at the Veranda Hotel, Grand Casino Resort, Tunica, MS by calling 1-800-394-7263. Identify yourself with Mississippi Public Health or Group number s09mpa. Room rates for the conference are \$64 plus tax per night for a single or double room. **DEADLINE IS AUGUST 20TH!**

Meet The Candidates for PRESIDENT-ELECT

- **Paula Sowell, RN, District I Health Protection Nurse**

Paula has been employed with the agency for over 19 years and is currently Health Protection Nurse IV in District I. She began her career in public health as a clinic nurse in Tunica County. She later held positions as Perinatal Regionalization Nurse Coordinator, County Coordinating Nurse, and TB Nurse Coordinator in District I. She has been a member of MPHA for 17 years and a member of the Nursing Section for 14 years. She has served as a MPHA Nursing Section Officer for 7 years and on the MPHA Executive Committee for 6 years.

"The association allows us the opportunity to meet with co-workers and fosters learning from others experiences. I believe this aids in our growth as public health care workers and promotes team building. Team work is essential and all personnel contribute to our common goal-to make Mississippi a healthier Mississippi. It is an honor to be nominated to run for MPHA President-Elect. If elected I will do my best to continue

to build on the accomplishments MPHA has achieved in promoting employee recognition, professional education and public education."

- **Jim Johnson, Director, Office of Professional Enrichment**

I am extremely honored to be nominated to run for Mississippi Public Health Association (MPHA) President Elect. MPHA personifies good practices in public health and I am thankful to be a member of such an organization. I began my career with the Mississippi Department of Health in September 1998, but my exposure to MDH began much earlier. While working at Medicaid from 1979 - 1989 I was involved in the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. I had the opportunity to travel to each of the county health departments and quickly realized that I was working with a collective group of outstanding individuals. Friendships were formed that exist to this day. As a member of the Advisory Board for the South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health we work tirelessly to bring a wide variety of face-to-face and on-line trainings. It is input and suggestions from the workforce at MDH that has made these projects a success. Working at MDH has been a wonderful experience for me. It is such a privilege and honor to work with such an Agency that hires highly motivated, integrity-driven individuals. As we grow in our jobs we might look back and ask, "what did I do that made a difference?" Maybe we should have asked that question when we started. The facts and figures that we learn in our training will eventually become obsolete as new and more modern theories are proven. It is those encounters with others and ourselves that are everlasting. Thank you so much for the opportunity to run for MPHA President Elect.

VOTING

MPHA members will vote on 3 issues:

- 1) Vote for President Elect (Sowell or Johnson);
- 2) Increase membership dues to \$18(Active); \$9 (Retiree); and \$7 (Student); \$150 (sustaining);
- 3) Proposal to hire Executive Director;

Active dues-paid members can receive Absentee Ballot by contacting Roger Riley at (662-841-9015) or by email (roger.riley@msdh.state.ms.us); include your name and exact address. Deadline to return ballots - **September 13, 2006**

SILENT AUCTION & DOOR PRIZES

Don't forget to get items for silent auction and/or door prizes. Contact Jean Lawes (662-453-4563) or Delmer Roark (662-563-5603) for more information.